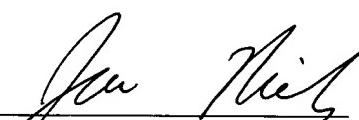


Aiken comprises of at least three separate components; the tubular member and two thin closure discs or membranes. Applicant's invention comprises of only a one-piece housing because the ends are permanently sealed and not a separate rupturable seal and the scores are formed on the outer surface of the housing without any additional components. There is a high likelihood of leaking from the Aiken's housing due to its soft flexible body and rupturable thin closure disc or membrane. The housing as disclosed by Aiken may be ruptured unintentionally during transporting. The housing may also leak its contents if the closure disc or membrane is not securely attached to the housing. Applicant's invention cannot be ruptured because its ends are permanently sealed. Applicant's invention also will not leak its contents because its ends are permanently sealed. There is no possibility of a closure disc or membrane not being securely attached to the housing causing the housing to leak its contents as in Aiken. Furthermore, it is much quicker and cheaper to manufacture Applicant's invention than it is to fabricate the invention disclosed in Aiken due to Applicant's single component leak-proof design.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

March 31, 2003

  
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Amended Claims

1. A multi-channel single-tube sealed container and applicator comprising:  
a one-piece housing of rigid material with two permanently sealed ends  
wherein said housing encloses multiple channels capable of containing substance and is  
permanently sealed on both ends with a score formed at a predetermined distance from  
each end of the housing.
  
5. A multi-channel single-tube sealed container and applicator comprising:  
a one-piece housing of rigid material with two permanently sealed ends  
wherein said housing encloses multiple channels capable of containing substance and is  
sealed on both ends with multiple scores formed at multiple predetermined distances  
from each end of the housing.